

Ministry of Communications

e@telecom

Iraqi Telecommunication & Post Company

Happy Eid

ITPC's D.G Mr. Kassim AL- Hassani and the team of e@telecom congratulate all readers of e@telecom for the occasion of Eid AL- Fetr and wish you success and progress in your life and business.

ITPC accomplishes E-Government Project in Al-Nasserya

ITPC achieved the project of E-Government project in many directorates in Al-Nasserya province including the ministry of education, the ministry of health, the ministry of electricity, the Technical Institute, and many offices and directorates in the province.

The director general of ITPC Mr. Kassim Al-Hassani who oversaw the project of E-Government directly, stated that the ITPC achieved the requirements of E-Government in Iraq and for the time being there are other services of E-Government which are provided in many ministries, embassies and vital offices in Iraq.



ITPC Signs off Deal with Alcatel-Lucent to boost the Microwave Networks

ITPC signed off a contract with Alcatel-Lucent Company to be provided with microwave stations manufactured in France. These stations will support the national microwave network and will increase the deploying of this network in Iraq. Director General of ITPC Mr. Kassim Al-Hassani who signed off the contract, said that ITPC is willing to adopt more projects and contracts to provide more advanced services for its customers.

The MOC facing many challenges to shape the telecoms and internet sector in Iraq. This one of the first articles will provide in-depth discussions to reflect the new technologies and its impact and implications on the Iraqi governments, Citizens, Policy Makers and Private sectors. The discussion will open the way in which the Iraqi government establishments such as the Ministry of Communications and Iraqi National Communications and Media Commissions, exploring all possible options to implement full liberalization of the telecommunications sector through competition in the provision of all services.

This provision will be based on open, transparent, effective and non-discriminatory regulations and on efficient allocation and use of scarce public resources. There is also a need to investigate the way in which the Iraqi government address the various and changing threats to the integrity and security of the Internet in order to encourage trust and confidence of users through the implementation of security management standards and procedures based on recognized best practices.

Part one Broadband in Iraq The Challenges.

- * History of Internet in Iraq.
- * Regional Growth.

By
Kassim Mohammed Al-Hassani (ITPC DG)



History of Internet in Iraq

In countries where only a minority has telephones, ensuring affordable access to the Internet is a huge challenge. Much of the response would lie in social solutions such as community or public access centers. In richer countries, basic access to Internet is available almost to all and faster broadband connections are fairly widespread.

The Communication sector showed sluggish growth in the fixed line and internet in the absence of a strong and powerful regulator. Internet penetration remained weak throughout Iraq. More sophisticated uses of ICT in applications and services for business, government and society were not common.

The Internet in Iraq dates back to January 2000, when the government formed The State Company of Internet Services (SCIS). This company provided Internet access to people who were almost completely isolated from the world by their country's lack of media and communications ability. Internet access did not actually become available to Iraqi citizens until 2001 when the government finally made access generally available; it did so in an extremely limited fashion.

Till the end of 2002, Internet use in Iraq was limited to those who could afford it. In 2002, the number of Internet users amongst Iraq's total population of 26 million people was only 45,000. Many of these users were state officials. The others were those who could afford to pay 2,000 Iraqi dinars (the equivalent of \$1) per hour, approximately 20% of the average Iraqi's salary.



Regional Growth

In several studies, TeleGeography has found that broadband subscriber growth is the most important driver of demand for international bandwidth services.

The countries of the Arabian Gulf region have experienced very strong broadband subscriber growth in recent years, and are poised for far more.

Thanks in part to market liberalization efforts, broadband subscribership has expanded significantly.

The number of broadband subscribers increased by 55 percent between 2007 and 2008.

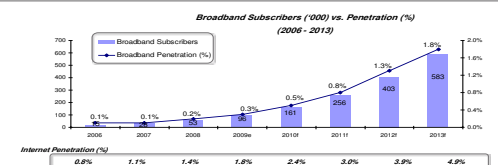
This growth rate compares to 18 percent in Asia and 16 percent in Europe during the same time period. Despite the rapid growth, broadband

penetration in the Gulf region (14 percent of all households) lags well behind broadband penetration in other regions (e.g., 78 percent in Europe).

This finding suggests much room for sustained, high growth in the Gulf Region.

Broadband

proposed Broadband growth in the country is indirectly the lack of capacity and sufficient bandwidth both internationally or within the country.



> At present, the shortage of fiber and copper fixed-network infrastructure is leading the sector policy makers and investors to look for wireless broadband access solutions as a means of increasing broadband penetration rapidly and with relatively little capital expenditure.

> Several initiatives are on the horizon to build the infrastructure and revive the sector, yet the impact will take time to be felt. Broadband penetration will remain very low and somewhat expensive and unaffordable (ADSL monthly charges of \$100 for some ISPs). It is predicted that by the end of 2013 broadband penetration will rise to just 1.8% with 583k subscribers.

[Source: BMI, ITU, 2009]

[© Estimated / Forecasted]

Experience accumulated in the communications sector of countries worldwide demonstrates that legal reform is a key component for the modernization of the sector. An effective legal framework ensures proper competition, guards against abuse of dominant position, and balances the goals of market efficiency, flexibility and innovation. An effective legal framework based on transparent and effective regulatory rules, institutions, and processes is essential for promoting sector development, creating a good environment for competitive provision of services, improving performance of the sector, and increasing its role in economic and social development.

ITPC holds Symposium about GIS

Attended by the technical deputy of the communications minister Engineer Mr. Amir Al-Bayati and other senior officials from the ministry and ITPC, a symposium was held in the ITPC to discuss the services of this technology and the possibility of activating this technology in Iraq in the near future.

Mr. Amir Al-Bayati pointed out the importance of this technology since it will help achieving the projects of FTTH and other projects as well as in preventing the interferences in projects among the ministries and companies in Iraq.



Reader Contribution

@telecomteam thank their readers for their valuable comments and welcome any feedback and contributions to our electronic Newsletter. If you have something regarding Information Communications Technologies you like to submit, feel free to send it to: news@itpc.gov.iq



ITPC and Customers

After many decades of lacking the services of communications in Iraq, the decision makers in the ministry of communications and ITPC intend to adopt strategic plans and projects to make modern services available for a wide range of customers. During the last two years ITPC's Director General signed off many important contracts regarding the projects of optical cables, FTTH and submarine cable which largely contribute in providing broadband capacities, electronic government services and several other services. Therefore the projects which were achieved boosted the economical status and the position of ITPC among the other companies as one of the pioneer communications company in the region. Furthermore the Iraqi customers are benefiting now from the varied services of ITPC such as internet and voice and video calls. At the beginning of this year the director general of ITPC Mr. Kassim Al-Hassani stated that this year will be the year of achieving projects and providing modern services for the customers, and until now everything which has been planned is not derailing from the process. Furthermore, it is very obvious that the percentage of using internet and the new communications services has widely increased in Iraq, along with a significant improvement in the quality of services. It worth mentioning that the customers of ITPC are not complaining from any bad service, but the ITPC is continuing its endeavors to carry out new projects to diminish gaps in communication services between Iraq and the developed world.

Written by: one of our readers .

Eid Communications Festival 2011

Following the outstanding success of 1st Eid Festival 2010. ITPC will hold 2nd Eid Communications Festival on September 9, 2011 in Family Lebanese Club in Baghdad. This Festival will be attended by the minister Mohamed Tawfiq Alawi and his deputies as well as the employees of the ministry and ITPC and their families. In addition to the entertainment programs, this festival will be a good chance to make new enterprises with the ministry and ITPC as this event will be attended by the decision maker of communications in Iraq. The company that is willing to sponsor or attend this event can contact us on itpcmedia@moc.gov.iq



وزارة الاتصالات



الشركة العامة للاتصالات و البريد

ملتقى عيد الاتصالات الثاني 2011

2nd. EID FESTIVAL

ملتقى عيد الاتصالات

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- ★ فعاليات وبرامج فنية وشعرية وحضور الفنان الكوميدي (ماجد ياسين)
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- ★ اجراء سحب على بطاقات الدخول الى النادي
- ★ وجبة غداء

علما أن بطاقة الدعوة تمثل سمة الدخول وحجز وجبة الغداء . ويوجد ساحة لوقوف السيارات مجانا للسادة الحضور الكرام. دخول الاطفال دون سن السابعة مجانا

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Iraqi Government

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Thursday, Aug 11, 2011

Facebook aims to replace texting

Facebook has launched an instant messaging service for mobile phones, similar to BlackBerry Messenger. The dedicated app, for iPhones and Android devices, allows users to contact individual friends or groups of people. Its release comes a month before Apple is due to unveil a similar product.

Attention has been focused on mobile messaging recently because some of the London rioters were known to have used it to co-ordinate their movements.

So far Facebook's mobile messenger is only available in the United States, but it is expected to eventually roll out in other countries.

The social network's 750 million users already have the ability to send messages through the website, and on Facebook's original smartphone app.

Its new application adds the option to send directly to a mobile phone via SMS, and also to include location information. Bad timing?

Facebook's timing has raised a few eyebrows within the industry, given the debate around BlackBerry Messenger's role in the recent UK rioting. "The big question you have to ask is how long will it be before Google+ has a messaging service built in" Stuart Miles Pocket-lint.com However, it is likely that its decision to launch in the US now was influenced by the impending Arrival of Apple's iOS 5 and its integrated messenger. Stuart Miles, the founder of Pocket-lint.com, told BBC News that Facebook might be able to make mileage out of its compatibility with more than one phone system. "Apple will be iPhone to iPhone, like Facetime. The same as BBM which is Blackberry to Blackberry. [Facebook] will be Android to iPhone, so theoretically it can only benefit from the platform," said Mr Miles.

"The big question you have to ask is how long will it be before Google+ has a messaging service built-in."

Source: BBC



Google to buy Motorola Mobility for \$12.5bn

Tuesday, Aug 16, 2011

Internet giant Google has announced a deal to buy Motorola Mobility for \$12.5bn (£7.7bn). A joint statement said the boards of both companies had unanimously approved the deal, which should be completed by the end of this year, or early in 2012.

Earlier this year, Motorola split into two separate companies. Mobility develops and manufactures mobile phones, while Motorola Solutions covers wider technologies for corporate customers and governments.

Shares in Motorola Mobility jumped 56% by the close of trading in New York on Monday, to \$38.13, still below the offer price of \$40 per share. Shares in Google fell 1.8%.

Meanwhile, Nokia shares listed in New York had jumped 17% by the end of trading on news of the deal, with renewed speculation that the Finnish mobile phone company could become a bid target itself, with Microsoft a likely suitor. 'New opportunities'

The deal would allow Google to "supercharge" its Android operating system, the joint statement said. Google said it would continue to run Mobility as a separate business.

"Motorola Mobility's total commitment to Android has created a natural fit for our two companies," said Larry Page, Google's chief executive. Sanjay Jha, his counterpart at Mobility, said:

"This transaction offers significant value for [our] stockholders and provides compelling new opportunities for our employees, customers and partners around the world."

The deal is subject to shareholder and regulatory approval. Motorola was once one of the world's most successful mobile phone manufacturers, but has fallen behind the likes of Apple, Samsung and HTC in recent years. Many of its handsets already use Google's Android operating system.

Source: BBC

Unprecedented Win for Boxing Communications Club

The boxer, Karar Kadhem, won the silver medal in the Boxing World Tournament of which was held in Kazakhstan. This unprecedented winning is recorded for the first time in Iraq and the region as this tournament was held with participations of many international players of 46 kilograms from Ukraine, Morocco, Algeria, Azerbaijan and Australia. Also the boxer Mortadha Raad won the golden medal in the tournament which was held in Turkey.



Communications Club wins First Place in Al-Rafedeen Tournament

The communications fencer, Ali Saleh won the first place in Al-Rafedeen Tournament which was held in Duhok province with participation of 70 players from many provinces of Iraq. On the other hand the communication club of boxing won the third place with 12 points in the Iraqi Tournament of boxing for youth which was held in Baghdad. The police team won the first place with 20 points while the second place went to Al-Jenob club with 15 points.

General Supervisor
Mr.Kassim Al-Hassani
ITPC DG
Chairman of the Board

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